

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32(2280)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

MAR 2 9 2002

Mr. L. Robert Puschendorf Nebraska State Historical Society P.O. Box 82554 Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2554

Dear Mr. Puschendorf:

We have received your letter of February 4, 2002, requesting removal of the Jobbers' Canyon Historic District (Douglas County) from the National Register of Historic Places. We agree that the 1988-89 demolition of 21 of the 22 contributing buildings has resulted in the loss of the qualities that caused the district to be originally listed. As per your request, we removed the district from the National Register on March 26, 2002, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in 36 CFR 60.15(a)(1).

In addition, we have noted that the Nash Block Building (McKesson-Robbins Building), the sole contributing building in the district that was not demolished, was individually listed in the National Register in 1985. As mentioned in your letter, because it retains its architectural and historical significance as an individual property, the building remains individually listed.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

| Type all entries | s-complete applicable s | sections | | |
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| 1. Nam | 1e | | | |
| historic N | /A | | | |
| and or common | Jobbers' Canyon Hist | oric District | | |
| | ation | | | |
| | | owntown Omaha bound | led by 8th 10th and | |
| street & number | | | reet. (See enclosed map) | /A not for publication |
| city, town | Omaha | N/A vicinity of | | |
| state | Nebraska code | e 031 county | Douglas | code 055 |
| 3. Clas | sification | | | |
| Category X district building(s) structure site object | Ownership public private _X both Public Acquisition in process N/A being considered | Status _X_ occupied unoccupied _X_ work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no | Present Use agriculture _X commercial educational entertainment government _X industrial military | museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: |
| 4. Own | er of Proper | ty | | |
| name | Multiple ownership - s | ee continuation sheets | | |
| street & number | N/A | (K) 1 | | |
| city, town | N/A | N/Avicinity of | state | N/A |
| 5. Loca | ation of Lega | al Description | on | |
| courthouse, regis | stry of deeds, etc. Regis | ter of Deeds, Omaha/Do | ouglas Civic Center | |
| | 1819 Farnam Street | tor or beeds, omana, be | Jugius Oivic Ocitici | |
| city, town | Omaha | | state | Nebraska |
| 6. Repr | esentation | in Existing | Surveys | - |
| 1984 Om | aha/Douglas County Building Survey | | perty been determined elig | ible?yes _Xno |
| date Ongoing | | | federal state | county _X_ local |
| lepository for su | rvey records Omaha Ci | ty Planning Departmen | t & Nebraska State Histor | rical Society |
| eity, town | Omaha/Lincoln | | state | Nebraska |



OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Owner of Property

Item number

4.

Page

2.

"Jobbers' Canyon" Historic District Omaha, Nebraska Landowners, August, 1986

The Addresses are all "Omaha, Nebraska" unless otherwise indicated and are located in the original City of Omaha.

| Lots 7 & 8 | BLOCK 124 City of Omaha 1819 Farnam 68183 | 902 Farnam |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Lot 1 (E 110') & Lot 2 | BLOCK 133 Historic Burlington Building Box 3358 Wichita, KS 67201 | 901 Farnam |
| W. 22' of Lots 1 & 2 & All of Lots 3 & 4 | Hugo E. Ribadeneira 209 North Emporia Wichita, KS 67202 | 923 Farnam |
| Lots 5 & 6 | Nogg Bros. Paper Co. P.O. Box 3728 68103 | 323 South 10th |
| E. 66' of Lots 7 & 8 | 902 Partnership 902 Harney 68102 | 902 Harney |
| W. 66' of Lots 7 & 8 | Hugo E. Ribadeneira 209 North Emporia Wichita, KS 67202 | 908 Harney |
| | BLOCK 153 | |
| Lots 1 & 2, 7 & 8 | J.D. Warehouse Co. 2006 North 101st 68134 | 402 South 9th |
| Lots 3 & 4 | John Day Co. 401 South 10th 68102 | 401 South 10th |
| Lot 5 | John Day Realty Corp. 401 South 10th 68102 | 417 South 10th |
| Lot 6 | J.D. Warehouse Co. 2006 North 101st 68134 | 916 Howard Street |

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

| Continuation sheet | Owner of Property | Item number | 4. | Page 3. |
|--|-------------------|---|----|----------------|
| Lots 1 & 2 | | BLOCK 163 J.D. Warehouse Company 2006 North 101st 68134 | | 502 South 9th |
| Lot 3 | | Wright & Wilhelmy Co. 523 South 10th 68102 | | 503 South 10th |
| Lots 4, 5 & 6 | | Wright & Wilhelmy Co. 523 South 10th 68103 | | 523 South 10th |
| W. 66' of Lots 7 & 8 | | Wright & Wilhelmy Co. 523 South 10th 68102 | | 908 Jackson |
| E. 66' of Lots 7 & 8 | | New Idea Realvest Ltd. 902 Jackson 68102 | | 902 Jackson |
| | | BLOCK G | | |
| S.W. 304 sq. ft. of Lot | 2 | C.B. & Q. Railroad | | |
| N. ½ alley adj. & S. 6' | E. 22' Lot 3 | C.B. & Q. Railroad | | |
| Alley adj. & No. 741 s | q. ft. Lot 7 | C.B. & Q. Railroad | | |
| N. 2513 sq. ft. of Lot | 8 | C.B. & Q. Railroad | | |
| All Lots 1-8 except pa C.B. & Q. Railroad | rt owned by | Missouri Valley Cold Storage 800 Harney Street 68102 | - | 800 Harney |
| | | BLOCK H | | |
| S. 3000 sq. ft. of Lot 1 | | C.B. & Q. Railroad | | |
| S. 1005 sq. ft. of Lot 2 | 2 | C.B. & Q. Railroad | | |
| Lots 5, 6 & 7 | | Natural Resources Group 824 Howard Street 68102 | | 824 Howard |
| N. 5712 sq. ft. of Lot of Lot 2 and all of Lot | | Carpenter Paper Co. 815 Harney Street 68102 | | 815 Harney |
| | | BLOCK I | | |
| Lots 1-10 | | D.H. Food Co. P.O. Box 599 Cincinnati, Ohio 45201 | | 802 Jackson |

| Condition excellent | deteriorated | Check one unaltered | Check one _X original s | | N/A |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------|-----|
| _X good fair | ruins unexposed | _X_ altered | moved | date | N/A |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The "Jobbers' Canyon" Historic District is a six-and-one-quarter block area in the eastern section of downtown Omaha comprised of large-scale, primarily early twentieth century brick warehouses, brick and cobblestone streets, docks and dock-canopies and rail spurs. The canyon-like area created by the massive brick jobbing houses that line south Ninth Street is a unique urban streetscape in the city. The integrity of the area is very good; with the exception of some street level modifications and bricked-in windows, the facades of the majority of buildings in the district are essentially intact. The district is comprised of 22 contributing warehouse buildings and 4 non-contributing buildings.

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Description

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121-27. Rector and Wilhelmy Company Building (1889; 1905), 523 South 10th Street (Photo No. 1)

Originating from an 1871 retail hardware business in Nebraska City known as Larson and Wilhelmy, the firm of Rector and Wilhelmy established business in Omaha in 1876 as hardware wholesalers. In 1889 Omaha architects Fowler and Beindorff designed a 66-foot wide by 100-foot deep five-story warehouse of red brick and stone for Rector and Wilhelmy at 10th and Jackson Street. A major addition by architect John Latenser more than doubled the size of the building in 1905 when the firm, then known as Wright and Wilhelmy, expanded the building to its present six-story, 132-foot square configuration. The Wright and Wilhelmy Company continues to operate its business from this structure today.

Some of the stylistic features of the original 1889 building, which was Romanesque in character, were lost during the 1905 expansion. These include an elaborate pinacle-embellished parapet that was displaced for the sixth floor. Other features — large, elliptically-arched main floor windows, a rusticated stone base, and semi-circular arched windows at the fourth and fifth floors — were retained and repeated as the modified original building became the pattern for the north half of the expanded Tenth Street facade. An additional feature of the original 1889 building that remains is a canopy that covers the south loading dock. The canopy features decorative iron supports in simple, circular patterns.

Structurally, the building is of standard mill construction. Exterior bearing walls of graduated masonry enclose a heavy timber frame.

121-53. American Radiator Company Building (1905), 417 South 10th Street (Photo No. 2)

The American Radiator Company, a large manufacturer of radiators and boilers, maintained sales branches in all major cities in the United States in the early twentieth century, with additional plants and branches located in Canada and Europe. The Chicago-based firm employed local architect John Latenser to design this four-story brick building for its Omaha operation in 1905. Although primarily utilitarian, Latenser's unique design displays such Renaissance Revival features as a modillioned cornice and an attic-like top floor with decorative round windows.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

| For NPS use onl | y |
|-----------------|---|
| received | |
| date entered | |
| | |

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page

2.

Structurally, the 66-foot by 132-foot warehouse is of heavy timber (mill) construction with graduated perimeter walls of solid masonry. The building's original storefront, which consisted of three transomed bays with large expanses of plate glass, has been replaced with brick and small windows. The upper floors remain as originally constructed.

After being vacated by the American Radiator Company in 1939, the building housed several furnace and air conditioning supply companies. The structure is presently used as an advertising office for the adjacent John Day Company. (See 123-64)

121-54. (1911), 423 South 10th Street, (Photo No. 2)

This two-story building, designed in 1911 by Omaha architect John Latenser, utilizes a concrete frame with mushroom columns similar to those used in the John Deere Building (See 123-34) and brick curtain walls. The top of the structure is defined by a simple terra cotta cornice supported by terra cotta-trimmed brick piers. Large, transomed display windows open onto the two-story street-facing sides of this 66 x 132-foot corner building.

Although the original plans and building permit show that this structure was built for the David Cole Creamery Company, City Directories indicate that the company never occupied the structure. Various tenants, including a Nash automobile dealer and the Omaha Casket Company, occupied the building until 1957 when the adjacent John Deere Plow Company purchased the structure for its annex. Presently vacant, the building was sold by the Deere Company along with its main building in 1982.

121-63/121-64; (Richardson Building (Common Name: Lindsay Brothers/New Idea Building)) 902/908 Jackson Street (Photo No. 3)

The Richardson Building was commissioned by the Richardson Drug Company, a wholesale supplier of medicine, liquor and paint supplies active throughout the U.S. The company originated in St. Louis, established an Omaha branch in 1887, and soon afterward shifted its base of operation to its Omaha office. The Richardson Company occupied the building from 1891 to 1927 when the firm merged with the Churchill Drug Company and moved to a larger facility. The Richardson Building was subsequently occupied by the New Idea Spreader Company (later, New Idea Farm Equipment Company), a manufacturer of farming implements based in Ohio. In 1958 the building was purchased by Lindsay Brothers Company. A wholesale distributor of farm equipment and plumbing and heating supplies, Lindsay Brothers occupied the structure until 1985. The building is presently undergoing a certified historic rehabilitation for use as apartments.

One of the earliest warehouses in the "Jobbers' Canyon", the five-story Richardson Building was designed by architect Henry Voss in 1890. Voss' original drawings reveal a predominantly Richardsonian Romanesque building that featured, among other details of the style, a quarry-faced limestone base, a broad round entry arch and decorative tourelles. Early photographs indicate that the structure, as built, was less ambitious, although the arched entrance was retained.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page

3.

The articulated south and east facades of the Richardson Building, as it stands today, are divided into five and six bays, respectively, defined by piers supporting a series of arches that outline large Diocletian windows at the 4th floor. A dressed-stone segmentally-arched entry now covers all but the edges of the original quarry-faced entrance arch. Large, three-part transomed double-hung wood windows are used throughout the first three floors of the building. At the top floor, narrow double-hung windows are grouped in threes. The building's original corbelled cornice parapet was replaced around 1930 with light-colored, patterned brickwork that prominently displays the then-owner's name, New Idea Farm Machinery Company. Structurally, the 66 x 127-foot building is standard mill construction comprised of a heavy timber frame and graduated masonry bearing walls.

In 1910 the Richardson Company added a two-story brick and stone structure to the west of their building. The addition, also of mill construction, matches the original building in material and detail.

123-9. Nash Block (1905-07), 902 Farnam Street (Photo No. 4)

Designed by one of Nebraska's most distinguished early architects, Thomas Rogers Kimball, the Nash Block is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in architecture, commerce and industry. Designed for use as factory and wholesale warehouse space, the structure reflects state-of-the-art technology in a transitional period of industrial architecture. The building was designed and equipped with the latest fire safety techniques in mind, including brick enclosed stairways and elevators, standard fire doors, standpipes, an automatic sprinkler system and outlet scuppers on each floor. Structurally, the eight-story, 132-foot square Nash Block is a combination of exterior masonry bearing walls and heavy timber (mill) construction. Aesthetically, the building is a simple, yet dignified Renaissance Revival style composition.

The Nash Block was built in 1905-07 for the M.E. Smith Company, a major manufacturer and wholesaler of dry goods whose business interests encompassed the entire northwest of the United States. The firm was organized about 1870 in Council Bluffs and moved into the Omaha area in 1886. The company continued to grow and soon expanded into the manufacture of clothing about the time they moved into the Ames Block (1101-07 Howard) which was also built expressly for their use (1889). By the turn of the century they were the largest and most important dry goods firm in Omaha.

Today the Nash Block is the only remaining building of an important complex of three M.E. Smith Company buildings that stood on this block. The building is currently scheduled to be rehabilitated into apartments as a certified historic project.

123-20. Kingman Implement Company Building (1900; 1905; 1917), 923 Farnam Street (Photo No. 5)

Little is known about the Kingman Implement Company except that it was a wholesale distributor of farm implements and vehicles. The firm hired architect Charles Cleves to design a six-story warehouse (the west half of this structure) for them in 1900. Five years later the Allen Brothers Company purchased the building and employed Cleves to double its size for their growing operation. Established in Omaha in 1882, the company was one of the city's major wholesalers in its line, supplying both staple and fancy groceries throughout the region.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page

e 4.

As it stands, this 132 x 132-foot tan brick Renaissance Revival style structure exhibits a tripartate composition with the base and top floor distinctly separated from the four intermediate floors by stone belt courses. The central bays of the west facade are recessed slightly from the end bays and feature arched windows at the fifth floor, while the center bay of the north facade (of the original 1900 building) projects slightly and features transomed Chicago windows at the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors topped by a large arched window at the 5th floor. These north facade features also occur on the 1905 addition, which is a mirror image of the original building. Structurally, the building consists of perimeter brick bearing walls, with wood floors supported by a wood girder and joist system on wood posts.

The architect utilized various brick configurations and stone trim for interest on the two street facing (north and west) elevations of this corner building. Brick is used to form an arcuated, corbelled cornice and simulated quions at the top floor. Molded brick is used to top arched windows and doorways, as well as to form circular panels that flank the arches. Stone is used for window sills, belt courses and coping. Original arched entries remain intact on the west elevation and the 1905 addition. A canopy, which is not part of the original construction, covers a loading dock that extends the full width of the north elevation. Among the few changes to the building since its construction are street level modifications at the northwest corner and a few bricked in windows.

In 1917, the T.G. Northwall Company, a wholesale farm implement dealer, moved into the east half of the building and erected a one-story brick addition to the east of that, comprised of two types of construction. The front, or street-facing, portion of the building is of brick (front wall) and concrete block (side wall) construction. The remaining portion of the building extending to the alley is sheathed in wood and corrugated metal and is in very poor condition. It appears that the rear portion was possibly a loading dock that was later enclosed.

Now commonly known as the U.S. Tire Company Building after its most recent tenant, this building housed various wholesale businesses following the departure of Allen Brothers in 1913. Among these was the Paxton and Gallager Company, the A.Y. McDonald Company and Dieterich and Field, Inc. The structure is presently utilized for storage and is awaiting a possible rehabilitation.

123-21. Crane Company Building (1905), 323 South 10th Street (Photo No. 6)

Built in 1905 as a branch warehouse for the Crane Brothers Manufacturing Company of Chicago, this straight forward building is the earliest structure in the district to exhibit a rationalist approach to design. It is also the first building in the district to be partially framed with concrete. Designed by Omaha architects Fisher and Lawrie, the building's structure is a hybrid system of graduated masonry perimeter walls, cast iron columns and steel beams used to support concrete floors and a concrete roof. Formally, the building consists of a six-story, 66 x 132-foot warehouse and an adjacent 66 x 132-foot one-story structure that was originally built as a pipe shed. Aesthetically, the pragmatic Crane Building exemplifies the early twentieth century tendency toward "realism" in warehouse design. The walls of the building are treated as smooth unadorned planes of solid brick that rise directly from grade. Trim is simple and sparse: thin stone bands define the first and top floors of the warehouse and link the pipe shed to the main structure, while four brick bands serve as a cornice. The transomed, stone main entrance is the only feature on the building that could be considered ornamental.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page

5.

The Crane Company, manufacturers of wrought iron pipe, boiler tubes and all types of gas, water and steam supplies, first established a western distribution branch in Omaha in 1886. With pipe mills located in Chicago and Pittsburg, the company carried on an immense jobbing trade through traveling agents located throughout the world. In addition to products manufactured by the company, the Omaha branch carried a full line of plumbing materials as well as hydraulic machinery, mill, elevator and machinery supplies, metals, belting and hose.

Nogg Brothers Paper Company, which acquired the building from the Crane Company in 1966, continues to occupy the structure today. The alteration of a few doors and windows at street level are the only changes that have been made to the exterior of the building, which is in very good condition.

123-22. Fairbanks, Morse and Company Building (1907), 902 Harney Street (Photo No. 7)

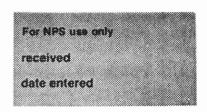
Omaha architects Fisher and Lawrie designed this six-story, dark brown brick warehouse for Fairbanks, Morse and Company in 1907. The 66 x 132-foot building is supported by exterior bearing walls of graduated masonry and a heavy timber frame. Aesthetically, the straight forward, utilitarian appearance of the structure associates it with early twentieth century "realistic" design. The architects only concessions to historicism and ornament are the building's Sullivanesque arched entryway, its pedimented parapet, and the stone cherubs that occur at the imposts of the arch and at the ends of the stone stringcourse that divides the first and second stories. The stone cherubs, which depict various aspects in the production of machinery, present an interesting sculptural element unique not only in the district, but in the city. Stone is also employed for window sills, a simple coping at the parapet and for a tablet enscribed with the company name that crowns the facade. Windows, which are square from the third to the sixth floors, are wood, double hung throughout the building. Very few changes have been made to the building since its construction.

The history of Fairbanks, Morse and Company is tied to the E. & T. Fairbanks Company, early makers and distributors of a platform scale invented by Thaddeus Fairbanks in 1830. E. & T. Fairbanks dominated the scale market in the mid-nineteenth century, trading throughout the world. Charles Morse, a nephew of an early Fairbanks salesman, formed Fairbanks, Morse and Company in Cincinnati in 1866 to distribute Fairbanks scales along with other industrial and agricultural equipment. Morse's company, which acquired ownership of the E. & T. Fairbanks Company in 1916, maintained a headquarters in Chicago with warehouses in St. Louis, St. Paul, Kansas City, Omaha and California. The Omaha branch of Fairbanks, Morse and Company — which first located in the City in 1889 — functioned as both a distribution and service facility. While it still sold scales at the time this structure was erected, the firm was then also the largest manufacturer of gasoline, kerosene and crude oil engines in the United States.

123-34. John Deere Plow Company Building (1908), 402 South Ninth Street (Photo No. 8)

This massive, completely fireproof building — notable for its progressive design and innovative structural system — was constructed in 1908 as an implement distributing branch of the John Deere Plow Company. The largest structure in the district, measuring 132 x 284-feet, the eight-story, reinforced concrete frame building occupies a block-long site in the heart of the "Jobbers' Canyon". O.A. Eckerman of Moline, Illinois and Fisher and Lawrie of Omaha were the architects. C.A.P. Turner of Minneapolis was the consulting engineer and provided "Turner's Mushroom System" of reinforced concrete flat-slab floors and concrete mushroom columns for the structure of the building.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page

6.

Aesthetically, the Deere building epitomizes the "realistic", rational approach to design admired by men such as Russell Sturgis and Peter Bonnett Wight writing in leading architectural journals in the early twentieth century. Punctuated primarily with triple sets of double-hung windows, the plane of the structure's expansive brick curtain walls is broken only by the stone sill courses that define the first and top floors, the recessed spandrels of the intermediate floors and the large orifice that provides rail access through the structure at the alley. Simple brick corbelling defines the top of the building which, with the exception of the stonework that surrounds the office entrance, is without ornament.

The Moline, Illinois, based John Deere Plow Company, manufacturers of farm implements and vehicles, maintained a system of branch offices and independent wholesalers throughout the country. John Deere farm implements were first sold in this area in Council Bluffs through Deere-Wells and Company, established in 1892. The company re-established in Omaha in 1899 and was located near the Tenth Street viaduct just north of the Union Depot before moving to this structure in 1908. The Omaha branch of the John Deere Company carried a complete line of farm machinery which it displayed in a showroom on the top floor of the building. In 1957 the company purchased the building adjacent to the west at 423 South 10th Street (see 121-54) for an annex. The John Deere Company continued to own and occupy both structures until 1982.

123-64. John Day Company Building (c. 1892; 1932), 401 South 10th Street (Photo No. 9)

Originally built in about 1892 as a four-story structure for E.E. Bruce and Company, this building was extensively remodeled in 1932 by the John Day Rubber and Supply Company. The remodeling included the removal of the top floor and the complete rebuilding of the facade into a simple grid of brick and glass. Narrow brick piers that run the full height of the building define large metal industrial-sash windows at the second and third floors and transomed display windows at street level. Trim on this pragmatic structure is limited to simple stone copings, lintels and sills. Structurally, the wood framed building is comprised of light joists supported by heavy timber posts and girders and brick bearing walls.

The E.E. Bruce Company, a drug wholesaler, moved to Omaha in 1885 after several successful years in Ottumwa, lowa. Its founder, E.E. Bruce, was one of the members of the board of directors of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

The John Day Rubber and Supply Company, wholesalers of hardware and contractors supplies, was organized in 1909 by John F. Day, Sr., a native of Bayfield, Wisconsin. Upon his arrival in Omaha, Mr. Day entered the coal business followed by ten years in the hardware, implement and general supplies business before founding his own company. In 1933, after recently moving into its newly remodeled quarters, the firm was said to have carried the largest stock of mechanical rubber goods and belting between Chicago and the Pacific Coast. The John Day Company continues to occupy this structure today.

123-65. Brunswick-Balke-Collender Building (c. 1888), 407 South 10th Street (Photo No. 9)

This 33 x 100-foot structure is of primarily heavy timber (mill) construction with exterior walls of graduated masonry. The facade of the four-story structure, clad with rough, buff-colored limestone, is Richardsonian in character. The second and third floors feature large, transomed Chicago windows. Round arches that spring from ornamental columns define windows at the top floor. The present, modernized storefront — possibly constructed in the early 1940's when the John Day Company acquired the building — consists primarily of smoothly finished stone and glass. The original storefront featured two large round-arched openings, one of which sheltered the recessed main entry. With the exception of the storefront and the absence of two pinnacles that originally topped the parapet, the building stands as it was first built.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page

7.

The Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company, headquartered in Chicago, descended from a business established in 1845 by John M. Brunswick and Julius Balke of Cincinnati, who were among the first manufacturers of billiard tables. (The firm later became the Brunswick Corporation, known for its bowling and other sports equipment.)

In addition to billiard tables, for which they achieved a world-wide reputation, the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company manufactured a full line of bank, office and store fixtures, both ready-made and to-order. The company maintained factories in Chicago, New York, Cincinnati and St. Louis as well as branch offices in major cities throughout the country. The firm first located in Omaha in 1878 and had this building constructed in about 1888 to serve the Nebraska, Kansas and western lowa territory.

Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company occupied the building until 1918. In 1920 the Standard Furnace and Supply Company moved into the structure, joined by the Nesbitt Furnace Company in 1940 and 1941. In 1942 the John Day Rubber and Supply Company (see 123-64) acquired the building and continues to occupy the structure today.

123-92. U.S. Supply Building (1906), 901 Farnam Street (Photo No. 10)

Charles Cleves was the architect for this six-story brick warehouse built in 1906 for the U.S. Supply Company. The 66 x 132-foot building is standard mill construction comprised of graduated masonry bearing walls and a heavy timber frame. Designed in the Renaissance Revival style, the body of the upper five stories of the structure is constructed of St. Louis red brick. Gray brick is employed for contrast for quions, jack arches, a diaper pattern frieze and the entire first floor, although it is difficult to distinguish the subtle color scheme today. Paired, double-hung wood windows are used throughout the building except for the first story. Changes to the structure, which are minimal, include the removal of the original stone cornice and the closing or reduction of several of the large, first floor window and door openings. A concrete dock, constructed at the same time as the building, surrounds both street-facing sides of the corner structure.

The U.S. Supply Company was established in Omaha in about 1900. Organized by the vice-president of the U.S. Water and Steam Supply Company of Kansas City, U.S. Supply of Omaha operated independently until 1926, when it was acquired by the Kansas City firm. The U.S. Supply Company, first located in the "Old Market" area before moving to this location, distributed wholesale steam, water and plumbing supplies. The firm occupied this structure until 1983, followed by the building's present occupant, the Metropolitan Arts Council.

123-93. The Dempster Building (1902), 908 Harney Street (Photo No. 11)

This Renaissance Revival style warehouse, designed by Omaha architect John Latenser, is nearly the same today as when it was built in 1902, with only minor modifications occurring at street level. Renaissance Revival features include a modillioned cornice, arched windows with stone keystones, a "rusticated" second floor, projecting end bays and the use of stone belt courses. The five-story, 66 x 132-foot building is structured of brick bearing walls and heavy timber construction.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

| For NPS us | e only | |
|-------------|--------|--|
| received | | |
| date entere | ed | |
| | | |

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page 8.

The building was constructed to jointly house the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company and the Great Western Stove Company. Little is known about the latter company except that it was a distributor of stoves and ranges and that it appears to have been a local branch of a larger company. The Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company started as a small retail pump and windmill shop in Beatrice, Nebraska in 1880. Under the direction of owner Charles Brackett Dempster, an Illinois native, the company grew to become a major manufacturer of windmills and farm implements. Dempster constantly studied the science of farm water supplies and farm equipment and his company was the first to develop and put into operation a machine which could cultivate two rows of corn at a time. In addition to its factory in Beatrice and its warehouse in Omaha, the company maintained branches in Kansas City, Oklahoma City, San Antonio, Armarillo, Denver and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Although the building still bears a Dempster Industries, Inc. sign and is commonly referred to as the Dempster Building, City Directories indicate that the Dempster Company last occupied the structure in 1973. The Great Western Stove Company left the building in 1940. Other wholesalers to occupy the building during the 1940's and 1950's were the Peanut Products Company and the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. Between 1979 and 1983 the building was occupied by the International Tire and Rubber Company. Presently vacant, the building is proposed to be rehabilitated along with the U.S. Tire Building (see 123-20).

68-4. Lee-Coit-Andreesen Hardware Company Building (1916), 815 Farnam Street (Photo No. 12)

This six-story red brick warehouse and tower was constructed on the site of the former Bailey Hotel in 1916, to expand the 1900 warehouse built by H.J. Lee adjacent to the south. (See 68-5) The tower, open at ground level for railroad access, bridges the alley and serves to link the two structures into a unified composition. The architect for the 110 x 152-foot addition was Henry A. Raapke. The building is of fireproof construction with a reinforced concrete frame and brick curtain walls.

In terms of style, the 1916 building is a simplified, rationalized version of the 1900 warehouse which it appends. The scale and general facade configuration of the building is based on the adjacent structure and the floor levels and cornice line of the building coincide with those of the Lee warehouse. The projecting end bays, the treatment of the building base and top floor are also patterned after the earlier building. Details, however, are generally simpler on the 1916 building. The cornice is a gently curved, corbelled extention of the wall accentuated with modillion-like blocks of brick. The wall surface as well as the window openings are unadorned. Most of the original wood framed double-hung windows above the first floor, like those of the Lee warehouse, have been bricked in, apparently when the building was taken over by its present owner, the Omaha Cold Storage Company. The original second floor windows and several first floor windows have been replaced with glass block.

68-5. H.J. Lee Warehouse Building (1900), 822 Harney Street (Photo No. 13)

Architects Fisher and Lawrie designed this six-story red brick warehouse structure in 1900, for Mr. Henry J. Lee, president of the Lee-Glass-Andreesen Hardware Company. The 132-foot square building is structured of graduated masonry exterior walls and a heavy timber frame. Stylistically, the building includes many features that associate it with the Renaissance Revival including the base with its classical, column-like brick piers supporting a full entablature, the modillioned and dentiled cornice, the brick work that affects rustication and the use of ornamental terra cotta and brick work for medallions and window surrounds. The majority of openings above the first floor, originally containing double-hung, wooden windows, have been bricked in. Much of the ground floor window and door configuration remains intact.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page

9.

The Lee-Glass-Andreesen Hardware Company originated in 1880 as Lee, Fried and Company, wholesalers of hardware, cutlery and tinware. The company, which frequently changed names as partnerships shifted during its history, occupied two buildings consecutively in the adjacent "Old Market" area (NRHP nomination, sites 1-15 and 2-39) prior to the construction of this building. In 1916 a building connected to the north of this structure (see 68-4) was built to accommodate the expanding business. The Company continued as sole occupant of the structure until the late 1920's. After that time, a number of businesses including a furniture company, a storage and moving company and an agricultural implement dealer have occupied the building. The Omaha Cold Storage Company (see 68-8) began to expand its adjacent operation into part of the building in the late 1940's and continues to utilize the structure today.

68-6. Harding Cream Company Building (1904; 1915;-1925), 802-810 Harney Street (Photo No. 14)

Standing today as a 132-foot wide, four-story building, this brick structure was constructed in three phases. The first three stories of the west half of the present structure comprise the original building constructed for the Harding Cream Company in 1904. The building was designed in the Renaissance Revival style by architect Frederick Clarke and features bifurcated Italian Renaissance style arched windows, a modillioned cornice, projecting end bays and brick "rustication". Structurally, the 1904 building is constructed of a wood frame and brick bearing walls. In 1915 Clarke designed a three-story addition to the east of the original building. This structure repeated the cornice, end bays and third story windows of the 1904 structure, but is generally much simplier in design. The 1915 brick addition utilized concrete columns and floors. Clarke was again retained in 1925 to design the buildings fourth floor, the roof of which is supported by wood posts. Although the first floor of the building as it exists today seems to have been considerably altered, a 1926 photograph of the structure shows it to have been nearly the same then as it is now, with a covered dock and an overhead loading apparatus.

The Harding Cream Company was founded at Wisner, Nebraska by Charles M. Harding. The company gathered dairy products from Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas and manufactured butter, ice cream and beverages for distribution throughout the entire Omaha trade area. The Harding Company occupied the building until 1949, when it was purchased by the Paul A. Willsie Company, dealer in costumes, robes and academic gowns. The present owner of the building, the Omaha Cold Storage Company (see 68-8), acquired the structure in 1957.

68-7. Carpenter Paper Company Building (1906; 1928), 815 Harney Street (Photo No. 15)

The Carpenter Paper Company began business in Omaha in 1886 in a remodeled livery stable at 1114 Douglas Street. Established by the six Carpenter Brothers, Issac, Frank, James, George, Will and Archie, it was Omaha's first paper warehouse. A 1937 Omaha Chamber of Commerce Journal account states that at that time the Carpenter Paper Corporation, of which there were 13 separately incorporated companies, operated 29 distribution centers in 19 states west of the Mississippi River. This building, constructed in 1906 for the Carpenter Paper Company of Nebraska, served as headquarters for the Carpenter organization, and continues to do so today.

In the Carpenter Building Omaha architect John Latenser combined a personal, stylized adaptation of the Renaissance Revival style with the type of "rational" design that was popular in early twentieth century warehouses. The structure's two-story stone base — which corresponds with the base of the adjacent Creighton Building (see 67-1) — has a rusticated appearance created by the alternating widths of the stone courses that make up the piers. Large, two-story openings, topped with segmental arches and stone keystones, are divided

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page 10.

into first and second floor windows through the use of deeply recessed spandrels. Stone is also used to form unique capitals for the piers, and hoods for the corner entrances. The brick walls of the third through seventh floors of the eight-story building are treated in a simpler, more pragmatic, manner: horizontal bands of paired, double-hung windows, linked by brick stringcourses that run the width of the building, are embellished with raised brickwork that echos the pattern of the notched piers below. Tripartate, columned windows define each bay at the top floor. The building's original projecting cornice was removed in 1928 when the top floor was remodeled to its present state, with simple bands of light-colored brick.

Structurally, the 110 by 132-foot building is a hybrid system consisting of graduated masonry walls and concrete and tile floors. Concrete is also used for the building's columns and roof. With the exception of the remodeled top floor, the structure remains as originally built and is in very good condition.

68-8. Omaha Cold Storage Company Building (1913; 1919), 809 Farnam Street (Photo No. 16)

The first six floors of this ten-story structure comprise the building originally constructed for the Omaha Cold Storage Company in 1913. Omaha architects Fisher and Lawrie collaborated with structural consultant C.A.P. Turner of Minneapolis on the design (these same firms had worked together on the 1908 John Deere Building, see 123-34). The building, which measures 132 by 154-feet in plan, is structured of a reinforced concrete frame enclosed by brick curtain walls. Aesthetically, the original 1913 structure had a Prairie-style appearance, unusual for a warehouse, with broadly projecting eaves, brick pilasters and a band of top floor windows. In 1919 the building was changed to its present configuration, when four floors were added by B.K. Gibson and Company, a Chicago industrial engineering firm.

As it stands today, the Omaha Cold Storage Building is impressive as a huge, brick monolith penetrated by very few openings and with little embellishment. The large, segmentally-arched windows of the tenth floor, along with the original second floor windows and many of the ground floor openings, have been bricked in. Brick pilasters, the most dominant features of the large expanse of brick wall, run between the ground and tenth floors of the structure, framed by the slightly projecting corner bays. Ornament is very limited, consisting primarily of the small amount of stone trim and dentil-like brickwork that occurs at the top floor.

The Omaha Cold Storage Company was founded in 1899 and started in a small building at Eleventh and Jackson Streets. The company engaged in the raising, purchasing and distribution of fresh and frozen poultry and the manufacture and distribution of all types of frozen foods. At the time of the completion of the addition to the structure in 1919, the Omaha Cold Storage Company was said to have been the largest cold storage house between Chicago and the Pacific Coast. In addition to the Omaha headquarters the company had plants in Elkhorn, West Point, Norfolk, Central City, Ravenna, Holdredge and Nebraska City, Nebraska; Carroll, Iowa and Berryville, Arkansas. In 1955, the company became a subsidiary of Consolidated Foods Corporation of Chicago. Omaha Cold Storage continues to utilize this structure today.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page 11.

67-1. Creighton Block (1905), 824 Howard Street (Photo No. 17)

Pioneer Omahan John Creighton had this brick warehouse constructed in 1905 for the Byrne and Hammer Dry Goods Company. Thomas C. Byrne, president of the company, was first involved in the dry goods business as a boy in St. Joseph, Missouri, and later organized the Richardson-Roberts-Byrne Dry Goods Company there. The firm moved to Omaha in 1900 and was located in the P.E. Iler Block in the "Old Market" area (NRHP nomination, site 1-5) before moving to this location. After the M.E. Smith Company, Bryne and Hammer was the largest wholesale dry goods company in the city in the early twentieth century with over 50 representatives that traveled throughout the northwest territory.

In 1930, following the dissolution of the Byrne and Hammer Company, the Tootle-Campbell Dry Goods Company of St. Joseph and the Appleman-Robbinson Company, a manufacturer of overalls, leased the Creighton Block. The Tootle Company continued to occupy the structure through 1954. Various wholesale companies have occupied the building since that time.

The eight-story Creighton Block, the most ornate structure in the district, was designed in the Renaissance Revival style by Omaha architect Charles Cleves. The heavily ornamental street-facing facades of the 132-foot square corner building are divided by stone string courses into three distinct sections, vertically. The buildings two-story brick base takes on a rusticated appearance and features deeply recessed, segmentally arched window openings. Five-story stone-surrounds, topped with cartouches and swags, frame the transomed Chicago windows of the intermediate floors, giving a vertical emphasis to the central portion of the facade. The top floor, which is treated like an attic story, is crowned by a frieze and heavy cornice, embellished with consoles and dentils. Structurally, the building is comprised of graduated masonry bearing walls and a heavy timber frame, with iron columns utilized at the first floor. The building stands today essentially as it was originally constructed.

67-6. (1901), 823 Howard Street (Photo No. 18)

Built by the Thomas Davis Real Estate Company in 1901, this 44 x 124-foot structure was first occupied by the Willow Springs Distillery Branch of the Standard Distilling and Distributing Company of New Jersey, which remained in the building until about 1918. Since that time, the structure has housed a number of wholesale firms and is now owned and utilized by D.H. Foods Company.

Three stories over a raised basement, this rectangular red brick warehouse features round-arched openings at the top floor and at the former main entrance. Molded brick outlines all of the original window and door openings in the structure, with stone used for trim in the form of string courses and window sills. Structurally, the building is standard mill construction with graduated masonry bearing walls and a wood frame. Iron posts are employed at the first and second floors while wood posts support the top floor.

Substantial alterations have been made to the structure since its construction. It appears that the building originally had steps to the main entrance and a cornice — two features that no longer exist. In addition, all window and door openings have been infilled with various materials including glass block, metal and some type of panel that is apparently transluscent. A metal enclosure has been added to the west facade for vertical circulation. In spite of these changes, the building contributes to the character of the district.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

7.

Page 12.

67-7. J. I. Case Plow Works Building (1913), 814 Jackson Street (Photo No. 19)

Omaha architect George Prinz designed this three-story brick warehouse for the J. I. Case Plow Works Company in 1913. Constructed of brick bearing walls and a heavy timber frame, the 66 x 132-foot building exhibits segmentally arched windows and stone trim. Although the structure has been substantially altered (through the addition of a large metal-enclosed tower on the facade and the replacement or bricking-in of windows), it retains sufficient character to be classified as a contributing property in the district.

The Racine, Wisconsin based J. I. Case Company, a manufacturer and distributor of agricultural implements, utilized this structure from the time of its construction into the 1920's. Following that time, various businesses, including several wholesale grocery firms, located there. The structure's present owner and occupant, D. H. Foods, acquired the building in the mid-1950's.

67-8. Trimble Brothers Building (1920), 802 Jackson Street (Photo No. 20)

Architect John Latenser, Jr. designed this five-story, 132-foot square brick warehouse for Trimble Brothers, fruit and vegetable commission merchants, in 1920. Structurally, the fireproof building is comprised of a reinforced concrete frame clad with brick curtain walls. A simple corbelled brick cornice and light-colored string courses of stone are the only decorative features on this strictly utilitarian structure. The upper four floors are unaltered, retaining their original wood double-hung windows with stone sills. The ground floor of the building, which provides rail access at the south and truck loading at the east, has been modified over the years.

Trimble Brothers was incorporated in 1909 when Charles and Robert Trimble acquired sole ownership of an earlier partnership, Snyder-Trimble Company. Along with this structure, which served as the firm's main facility, Trimble Brothers maintained a sales building in the "Old Market" area. The building is presently owned and occupied by the D.H. Food Company, makers of cake mixes. A tenant in the Trimble Building since the 1950's, D.H. Foods now owns the entire block in which this structure is located.

NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

801-05 Harney Street

A one-story shipping and loading facility built in 1951 and constructed of brick-faced concrete block and steel beams and columns; and an attached one-story brick garage remodelled in 1951; both utilized by the Carpenter Paper Company.

801 Howard Street

A one-story 66 x 125-foot brick-faced concrete block storage building, c. 1950's.

810 Howard Street

A one-story concrete block garage approximately 35 x 110-foot; date of construction, unknown.

817 Howard Street

An early twentieth century three-story brick building; original facade has been replaced by contemporary metal facade and enclosed loading dock; architect, unknown.

8. Significance

| 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 _X_ 1800-1899 | Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art _X commerce communications | | y landscape architectur law literature military music | re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify) |
|---|--|---------------------|---|---|
| Specific dates | c. 1888 - 19 32 | Builder/Architect \ | /ariou s | |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The "Jobbers' Canyon" Historic District is significant to the commercial development of Omaha — historically, an important distribution center for goods shipped throughout the west by rail — as the area in which many of the city's largest and most notable wholesale businesses built their ultimate warehouse structures in the early twentieth century, as the wholesale jobbing industry revived and boomed following a period of economic depression. The light industrial and warehouse buildings extant in the district are architecturally significant as substantial and representative structures of their type for the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, formally, functionally, technically and aesthetically. The district gains additional significance in architecture for importance in early twentieth century industrial design in the areas of structural technology, aesthetic appropriateness and fire safety; and for association with many of the city's most prominent architects. Environmentally, the district is important as a unique urban streetscape in Omaha. The period of significance (c. 1888-1932) is derived from the original construction dates of the buildings and significant later remodelings of the structures.

HISTORY

The history of the beginning and early development of wholesale jobbing in Omaha in the 1880's is well documented in the National Register nomination for the "Old Market" Historic District. The following excerpt from that nomination, which includes a brief discussion of the origins of wholesale jobbing nationally, will serve as an introduction to the story of Omaha's twentieth century jobbing trade:

Omaha and all of Nebraska experienced a boom during the 1880's unparalleled in the early history of the state. The state's population doubled from 1880-1890. Omaha, the largest city in the state, took advantage of its unique position as the eastern terminus of the first transcontinental railroad to develop as a major distributing center for Nebraska and the states westward to the coast. The "Old Market" area developed at this time, encouraged by the Union Pacific Railroad's policy to promote traffic and the national revolution in mass marketing which the new efficient transportation and communication systems had made possible.

Wholesale jobbing as a business practice was first developed in this country in the 1850's because of the new transportation and communication systems — the railroad and the telegraph. With the reliability and speed in movement of goods, the jobber, who purchased the goods directly from the manufacturer and sold directly to the store owner, was able to operate, confident in the dependable transport and arrival of goods. By the 1870's nearly all wholesalers had become jobbers. (Chandler, p. 215) Because of the railroad and telegraph it was no longer necessary for the jobber to be located on the East Coast near the importers and manufacturers. Jobbers moved west and located in Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis as well as other cities from the 1850's to '70's. Jobbers created large buying and selling networks; traveling salesmen went to the retail storekeepers for orders and traveled over a wide area of the country. Wholesale jobbing began in Omaha about 1880 and the jobbers increased rapidly in number, building up a new section of downtown Omaha for wholesaling activiites, i.e. the "Old Market" area.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8.

Page

2.

The Board of Trade was established in 1877 to promote the commercial development of the city. Wholesaling and manufacturing were seen to be vital to the growth of Omaha. James F. Boyd, president of the Board, stated in his 1881 Annual Report, "We are endeavoring to make Omaha the great distributing point of the extreme west, and as far as possible the depot of purchases of the northwest and southwest sections (of the country). The railway facilities help us to accomplish this. Today more than half of Colorado and New Mexico trade is through Omaha. Oregon and Idaho railroads are placed so wholesale merchants of Omaha can supply those towns. Manufacturing of all kinds are encouraged." The secretary of the Board of Trade stated in the same report that future growth of Omaha was dependent on its being a distributing, manufacturing and wholesaling center for the areas to the west.

Omaha's prosperous jobbing trade, which had increased dramatically in the 1880's, experienced a severe setback in the 1890's as a great depression spread across the country. In Nebraska, farming — the success or failure of which largely affected Omaha business — suffered from extended drought and record low prices. The 1893 crop was almost totally destroyed. Discouraged settlers abandoned their homesteads. The population of cities and towns declined. The Union Pacific Railroad, critical to the wholesale business, went into receivership, losing control of all but 2,000 miles of its 8,000-mile system. "Drummers", as traveling salesmen for the wholesale trade were called, found no market for their products. Wholesale jobbing declined and stagnated as sales plummeted for all types of goods.

With the turn-of-the-century came a tremendous resurgence of Omaha's economy. The successful 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition helped to convince Omahans that the depression was over and instilled in them a renewed sense of civic pride. A favorable wheat crop in 1897 marked a turning point for agriculture as it entered a new era of prosperity. The Union Pacific Railroad regained control of its branch lines, improved roadbeds and acquired more powerful locomotives for increased hauling capacities. Business was again booming in Omaha.

Part of the upturn in business can be attributed to a collective and aggressive solicitation effort on the part of the business community. One report by a local commercial organization at the time noted "Omaha is awake, alert and reaching out eagerly for new business. The businessmen of the city are heartily cooperating in efforts to extend Omaha's trade and to make this city the most important commercial and industrial center of the west." (Larson, p. 128)

The wholesale jobbing trade grew rapidly as the economy flourished in the early twentieth century. In 1890, prior to the depression, wholesaling sales were \$47.2 M. When business revived in 1900, reported sales were \$62.5 M and grew to \$188 M in 1916. The emphasis placed on the jobbing trade by the Omaha World-Herald in its annual reviews after the turn-of-the-century attests to the importance of wholesaling to the city at that time. Typical of the reports is a lead story published on January 1, 1903, with the following headline: "ALL RECORDS BROKEN BY OMAHA TRADE — Remarkable Gain in Jobbing and Manufacturing Surprises Even Hustlers in the Wholesale District — Nearly 25% Growth in the Omaha Market is Splendid Showing of a Year". The story goes on to attribute the increase to the hustling abilities of the trade's traveling men and to the extension of territory due to new transportation routes.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8.

Page

3.

With the rapid and large-scale growth of wholesaling came an acute demand for space. One observer, writing for the World-Herald in 1903, summarized the situation in this way: "I am told by several of the best informed businessmen in the city that buildings suitable for jobbing purposes are now very scarce; that houses recently organized and being organized here are waiting somewhat impatiently for an opportunity to spread their wings in larger quarters and are meantime chafing under the necessity of renting warehouses, more or less scattered, and unsatisfactory as well as expensive and unhandy." The story goes on to say that "it would cause general chagrin if some important addition to the houses now here could be prevented for lack of floor space, yet such would seem a contingency." (Blish) A related article indicates how the problem also affected the recruitment of new businesses: "The crying need of the jobbing center is for more room and larger buildings to place stock in. It is known that there are several houses desirous of coming to Omaha to locate, but they can find no location, there not being a single building suitable for jobbing trade vacant in the city."

The "Jobbers' Canyon" district is representative of the wholesaling aspect of the post-1900 economic revival and boom in Omaha and, to a lesser degree, the latter part of the 1880's boom. The area was a focal point for the resurgent jobbing trade as mammouth brick warehouses replaced the smaller-scale, primarily frame, residential, commercial and institutional structures built there in the last half of the nineteenth century. A number of the city's largest and most notable wholesale businesses built in the district as they expanded their operations — many from quarters in the nearby "Old Market." Other major buildings were constructed by firms based out of Omaha that sought either to establish a branch house or to extend their present enterprise. During one particularly concentrated construction period, between 1905 and 1908, ten of the major structures extant in the "Jobbers' Canyon" were erected.

The two largest dry goods wholesalers in Omaha, the M.E. Smith Company and the Byrne and Hammer Dry Goods Company, built structures in the area in 1906 and 1905, respectively. Both firms moved from locations in the "Old Market." The M.E. Smith Company, organized in Council Bluffs in about 1870, did business throughout the Northwest and Alaska. The Byrne and Hammer Company, exceeded in size only by M.E. Smith, was founded in St. Joseph, Missouri, and moved to Omaha in 1900, where it employed over 50 traveling representatives. Both companies were manufacturers as well as distributors of their products, which made them somewhat unique among businesses located in the district.

Along with dry goods, hardware was consistently one of the highest volume wholesale commodities distributed from Omaha. The Wright and Wilhelmy Hardware Company and the Lee-Coit-Andreesen Hardware Company, the city's largest firms in their line, both located in the "Jobbers' Canyon." Wright and Wilhelmy, formerly known as Rector and Wilhelmy, constructed a five-story warehouse in the area in 1889 and then more than doubled its size in 1905. Henry Lee constructed a new building for his growing firm — then known as Lee-Glass-Andreesen — in the district in 1900, moving from the "Old Market" area. In 1916 Lee-Coit-Andreesen erected a major addition to the structure creating a facility only slightly smaller than the Canyon's most massive structure, the John Deere Building.

Other major locally owned wholesale companies also built structures in the district or modified existing buildings for their use. The Carpenter Paper Company, Omaha's oldest paper business, moved from the "Old Market" into its new eight-story structure in 1906. The Omaha Cold Storage Company, reported to have been the largest operation of its type between Chicago and the Pacific Coast in the early twentieth century, built a six-story

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8.

Page

4.

warehouse in the area in 1913 and, in 1919, added four floors. In 1920, Trimble Brothers, fruit and vegetable commission merchants built a new facility at Eighth and Jackson Streets. The Allen Brothers Company, in 1905, purchased a building originally constructed five years earlier for the Kingman Implement Company and appended it with a structure of equal size to headquarter its expanding wholesale grocery business. One of the earliest structures built in the "Jobbers' Canyon" was erected in 1890 by the Richardson Drug Company, a supplier of wholesale medicine, liquor and paint. Another early drug wholesaler, the E.E. Bruce Company constructed a building in the area that was later remodelled and utilized by the John Day Rubber and Supply Company, a leading wholesaler of mechanical rubber goods and belting.

Unlike the "Old Market" area, where all but a few wholesale businesses were locally owned, many of the most important structures in the "Jobbers' Canyon" district were built as branch houses for large companies located in other cities. These organizations, many of which operated on an international scale, established general agents in Omaha to oversee the business of specific territories. The most prominent of these companies to build a facility in the district was the John Deere Plow Company, headquartered in Moline, Illinois. In 1908, on the site of the former St. Philomena's Cathedral, the Deere Company constructed an eight-story, block-long structure that was reported at the time to have been the largest agricultural implement distributing house in the country. Fairbanks, Morse and Company was another major organization to locate in the area. The company, widely known for its scales, also stocked and serviced various other products at its Omaha branch including engines, pumps and windmills.

Other notable wholesale companies located branches in the "Jobbers' Canyon". The Chicago-based Crane Company, a nationally known manufacturer of pipe and pipe fittings, built a six-story warehouse in the area in 1905. In addition to products manufactured by the company's Chicago and Pittsburg plants, the Omaha branch distributed a full line of plumbing supplies and hydraulic machinery. Another wholesale plumbing supply house, the U.S. Supply Company of Kansas City, constructed a warehouse in the district in 1906. Warehouses were also built by the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company of Beatrice, Nebraska, a distributor of windmills and farm implements (1902); the American Radiator Company, a Chicago based boiler and radiator wholesale house (1905); and the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company, manufacturers and distributors of billiard tables and bank, office and store fixtures (c. 1888).

Several of the companies that built in the "Jobbers' Canyon" district remain in business in their original locations today. These include the Wright and Wilhelmy Company, the Carpenter Paper Company, the Omaha Cold Storage Company (now known as Missouri Valley Cold Storage) and the John Day Rubber Company. The John Deere Company, the U.S. Supply Company and Fairbanks, Morse and Company all remained in their structures until the early 1980's.

ARCHITECTURE

The light industrial and warehouse buildings extant in the "Jobbers' Canyon" district exist as substantial and representative structures of their type for the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The primary function of the majority of these buildings was to provide space for the storage and distribution of finished products and, to a lesser degree, to provide for the storage of raw materials and associated space for light manufacturing. In a few cases buildings served both factory and warehouse functions. The form of these utilitarian buildings was based on structural, functional and fire-safety considerations.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8.

Page

5.

The warehouse, as a building type, emerged in Omaha in the late 1870's and early 1880's and is well documented in the National Register nomination for the "Old Market" Historic District, an area representative of the first phase of warehouse development in Omaha. The simple, rectangular form of the majority of these early warehouse buildings was dictated primarily by their structure — variations on standard masonry wall and light floor joist construction — and their utilitarian function. In terms of aesthetics, the architects of these early structures usually relied on historicism for distinction, often borrowing details from office and retail-commercial buildings.

The majority of structures in the "Jobbers' Canyon" district represent the development of the warehouse in Omaha in the early twentieth century. In terms of basic form and function, the warehouses of the area are similar to those of the "Old Market" district with one important exception — scale. The structures of the "Jobbers' Canyon" district are considerably larger and more impressive in size. Architecturally, the "Jobbers' Canyon" area is more significant than the earlier "Old Market" district from a technical, aesthetic and environmental aspect.

From a technical point of view, considering not only structure but also equipment and detailing, the buildings of the "Jobbers' Canyon" district represent a period in the evolution of warehouse architecture when design was strongly influenced by a desire for adequate fire protection, prompted mainly by increasing insurance costs. Structurally, the buildings in the area range from slow-burning mill construction to the completely fireproof reinforced concrete frame. Buildings constructed of hybrid systems that utilized concrete in combination with other materials (fire-resistive as opposed to fireproof structures) are also located in the district.

Mill construction replaced the flimsy joists and thin flooring of early warehouses with heavy timbers and planks — thick, solid masses of wood that could not burn freely, affording time to fight a fire before it could gain headway (Elzner, p. 380). The bulk of the structures in the "Jobbers' Canyon" district are mill construction, ranging from the area's oldest buildings (see sites 123-65, 121-27, 121-64) to the 1907 Fairbanks, Morse and Company Building (123-22). (Also see 123-9, 123-20, 123-92, 123-93, 68-5, 68-6, 121-53, 67-1.)

The Crane Company Building (123-21), built in 1905 by Omaha architects Fisher and Lawrie, was the first building in the district to utilize concrete for its fireproofing qualities. The building's hybrid structural system mixes exterior brick bearing walls — carried over from the mill construction tradition — with concrete floors supported by steel beams and columns. However, because of the designers use of unprotected steel, the building is classified as noncombustible rather than fireproof for purposes of fire insurance.

The first completely fireproof building (68-7) was constructed in the district by the Carpenter Paper Company in 1906. Like the Crane Building, the exterior walls of the structure are of graduated masonary. In this case, however, the building is structured of entirely fireproof materials, with concrete utilized for the columns and roof combined with tile for the floors.

The most important building in the district from a structural standpoint is the 1908 John Deere Building (123-34). This massive, totally fireproof structure, completed in six months, utilized an innovative system of reinforced concrete framing — the flat-slab system. The Omaha architectural firm of Fisher and Lawrie, working with architect O.A. Eckerman of Moline, Illinois, designed the building, using structural engineer Claude A.P. Turner of Minneapolis as a consultant. Turner, a pioneer in the field of reinforced concrete construction in

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8.

Page 6.

America, independently developed the flat-slab system originally invented in 1900 by Swiss engineer Robert Maillart. (Condit, p. 243) Turner first used the system in his hometown of Minneapolis in the 1905 Johnson-Bovey building and received a patent on it in the same year that the Deere building was constructed. The system was so new at the time that permission for the erection of the structure was granted by the City Council only after a building inspector had been sent to Minneapolis to study a similar building. (Quite possibly, the Johnson-Bovey building.) Turner's system was very efficient in that it saved considerable material and effected increased overhead space by transferring the action of girders and beams to the floor slabs and thus eliminating the horizontal members. In flat-slab framing the floor rests directly on the columns and behaves somewhat like a continuous beam. The distinguishing features of this system are evident in the John Deere building's beamless ceilings and flaring, mushroom-like column capitals.

Virtually all of the warehouses in the "Jobbers' Canyon" district built after 1910 are concrete, fireproof structures. These include the Omaha Cold Storage Building (68-8), the addition for the Lee-Coit-Andreesen Company (68-4) and the Trimble Brothers warehouse (67-8). (Also see 121-54.)

One building in the district that should be noted for its fire safety measures apart from its structural system is the Nash Block (123-1, NRHP). Constructed of heavy timber, the warehouse was the first in Omaha to be equipped with such state-of-the-art fire safety features as brick enclosed stairways and elevators, fire doors, standpipes, an automatic sprinkler system and outlet scuppers on each floor.

Aesthetically, the "Jobber's Canyon" district exemplifies the issue of stylistic appropriateness faced by designers of factories and warehouses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. "Realism" — a design philosophy championed by Russell Sturgis and Peter Bonnett Wight calling for rational, unornamented industrial buildings — was emerging at the time as an important alternative to historicism in architectural design. (Burchard and Bush Brown, p. 241) While both schools of thought are well represented in the "Jobbers' Canyon" district, three "realistic" structures are particularly noteworthy. They are the 1905 Crane Building (123-21), the 1907 Fairbanks, Morse and Company Building (123-22) and the 1908 John Deere Plow Company Building (123-34). These three austerely detailed structures, all by the firm of Fisher and Lawrie, are representative of the finest early twentieth century rational design in the city.

Renaissance Revival is the historic style employed most frequently in the district. The most literal adaptations of the style in the area are the H.J. Lee Building (68-5), the Dempster Building (123-93), the Kingman Implement/Allen Brothers Building (123-20), the U.S. Supply Building (123-92), the Harding Cream Company Building (68-6) and the Creighton Block (67-1). (It is interesting to contrast the Creighton Block (67-1) — the most ornate structure in the district — with the Crane Building (123-21) as an illustration of the stylistic extremes that occurred in industrial architecture after the turn-of-the-century. While the buildings were constructed in the same year to house essentially the same function, they are at opposite ends of the stylistic spectrum.) The oldest structures in the area, the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Building (123-65), the Wright and Wilhelmy Building (121-27) and the Richardson Drug Company Building (121-64), were designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8.

Page

7.

The architects of several buildings in the "Jobbers' Canyon" solved the dilemma of style by mixing a "realistic" approach to design with historicism. In these solutions historic features are often simplified or stylized as in the Carpenter Paper Company Building (68-7), the Nash Block (123-9), the Lee-Coit-Andreesen Hardware Company Building (68-4), and the American Radiator Company Building (121-53).

Environmentally, the "Jobber's Canyon" district is a unique and cohesive concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century warehouse buildings. The canyon-like space created by the massive brick walls of the structures that line brick-surfaced Ninth Street is an important urban streetscape in the city. Brick and cobblestone streets, railroad spur lines, and loading docks and dock-canopies all contribute to the special character of the area.

The integrity of the district is remarkably good. The most noticeable alterations include the modification of a few buildings at street or dock level and the bricked-in windows of the structures now utilized by the Omaha Cold Storage Company (68-4, 68-5, 68-8). The facades of the majority of the buildings in the district are essentially intact.

Several major additions to buildings are notable because of the respect shown to the appended structure's original character. In some cases this involved the replication of features of the original building (see sites 123-20, 121-27, 121-63,64). Other less literal additions achieved design harmony through the use of consistent height, material and general arrangement of elements while stylizing, simplifying or eliminating details (68-4, 68-6).

Many Omaha architects and firms are represented in the district. The most prominent of these are Thomas Kimball, John Latenser and Sons and Fisher and Lawrie. Others to design structures in the area include Charles Cleves, Frederick Clarke, Henry Raapke, Henry Voss, and George Prinz.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

| 10. | Geograp | hical Data | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Acreage of | of nominated proper | rty 19.8 acres | | | | |
| Acreage of nominated property19.8 acres Quadrangle name _Omaha North, Nebrlowa | | | | | Quadrang | le scale 1:24,000 |
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| 11. | Form Pre | epared By | | 25 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| name/title | Lynn Mey | er, Preservation Admi | nistrator | | | |
| organizati | on Omaha Çi | ty Planning Departmer | nt | date | Septer | mber, 1986 |
| street & no | umber 1819 Farr | nam Street, Room 111 | 0 | telephone | (402) | 444-5208 |
| city or tow | n Omaha | | | state | Nebras | ska 68183 |
| 12. | State His | storic Pres | ervatio | 1 Offic | er C | ertification |
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| | national | _X_ state | local | | | |
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| | f Registration | | | | | |

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

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- Crane Building, 1904, Reel No. 2
- Creighton Building, 1905, Reel No. 2
- Fairbanks, Morse Building, 1907, Reel No. 3
- H.J. Lee Warehouse, 1900, Reel No. 1
- John Deere Building, 1908, Reel No. 3
- Kingman Implement Building, 1900, Reel No. 1
- Nash Building, 1905, Reel No. 2
- Omaha Cold Storage Building, 1913, Reel No. 2; 1919, Reel No. 11
- Richardson Building, 1890, Reel No. 1; 1910, Reel No. 4
- U.S. Supply Building, 1905, Reel No. 2
- 417 South 10th Street, 1904, Reel No. 2
- 423 South 10th Street, 1910, Reel No. 4

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Continuation sheet

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Geographic Data; Verbal boundary description and justification

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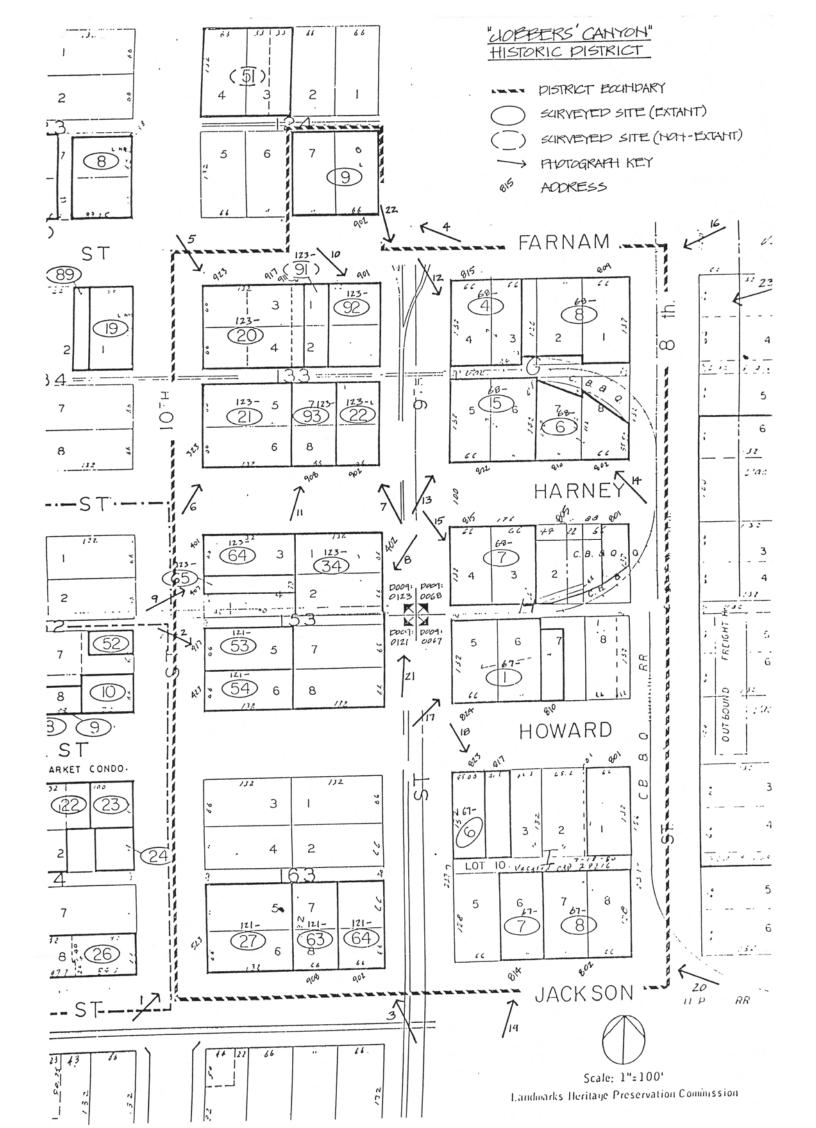
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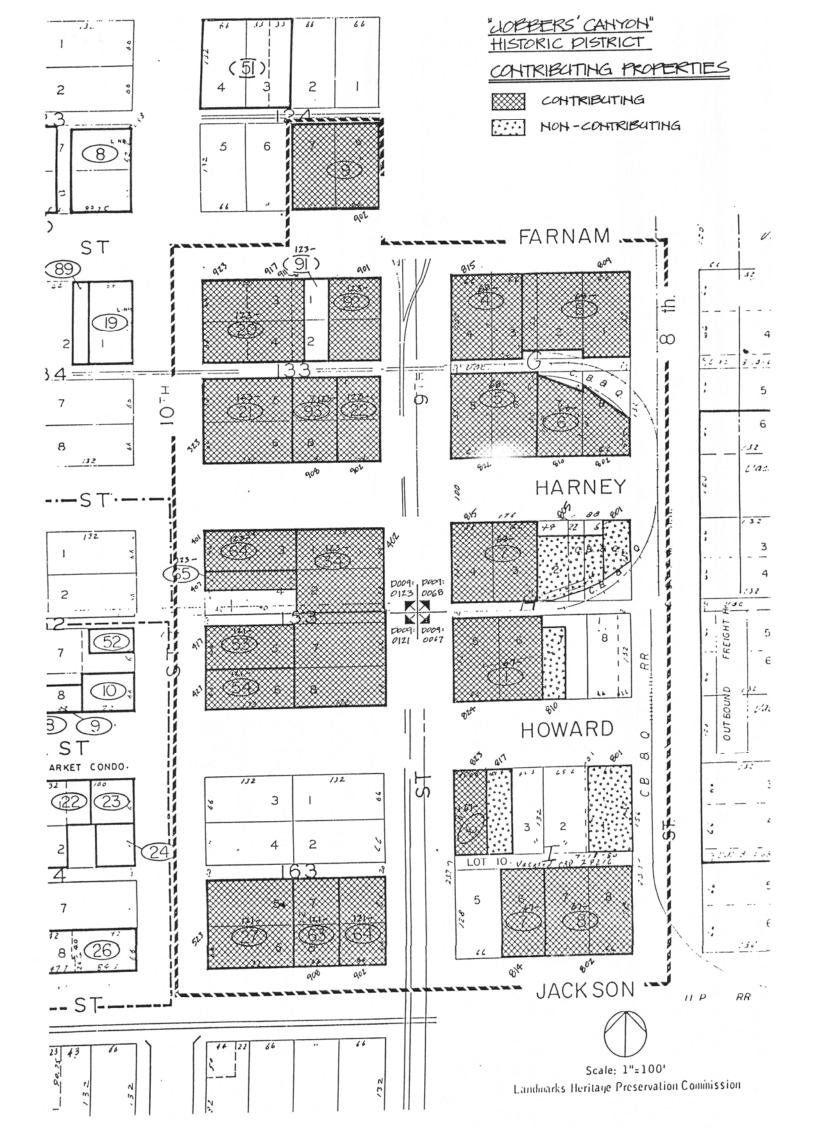
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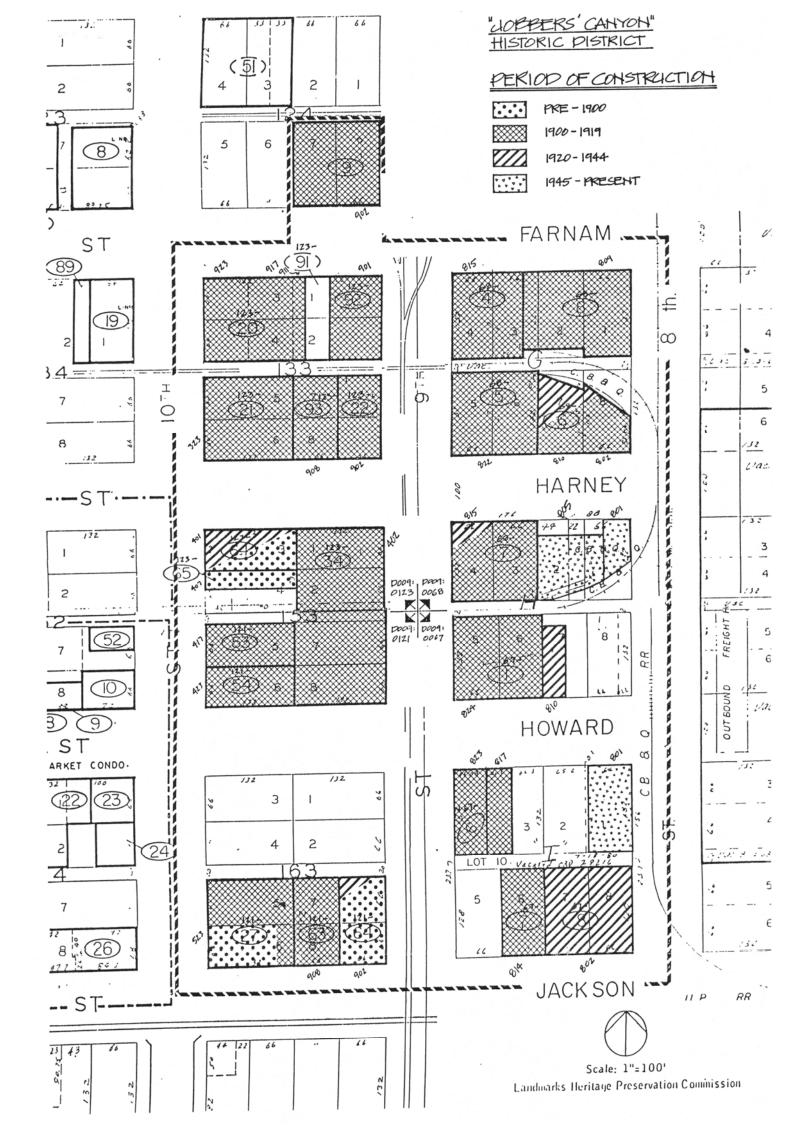
Page 2.

Commencing at the center of the intersection of 10th and Farnam Streets, thence south along the centerline of 10th Street to its intersection with the centerline of Jackson Street, thence east along the centerline of Jackson Street to its intersection with the centerline of 8th Street, thence north along the centerline of 8th Street to its intersection with the centerline of Farnam Street, thence west along the centerline of Farnam Street for a distance of 414.00 feet, thence north for a distance of 182.00 feet to the NE corner of Lot 8, Block 124, Original City of Omaha, thence west for a distance of 132.00 feet to the NE corner of Lot 7, Block 124, Original City of Omaha, thence south along the west line of said Lot 7 to its intersection with the centerline of Farnam Street, thence west for a distance of 182.00 feet to the point of beginning. The district comprises Blocks 133, 153, 163, "G", "H", "I" and Lots 7 and 8 of Block 124 in the Original City of Omaha, Nebraska.

Boundaries were chosen to include the highest concentration of properties historically related to the areas of significance. The area to the north of the district is a new urban City park; to the east is a large tract of vacant land awaiting redevelopment; to the south is an area lacking the scale and concentration of structures found in the district; to the west is the "Old Market" Historic District.







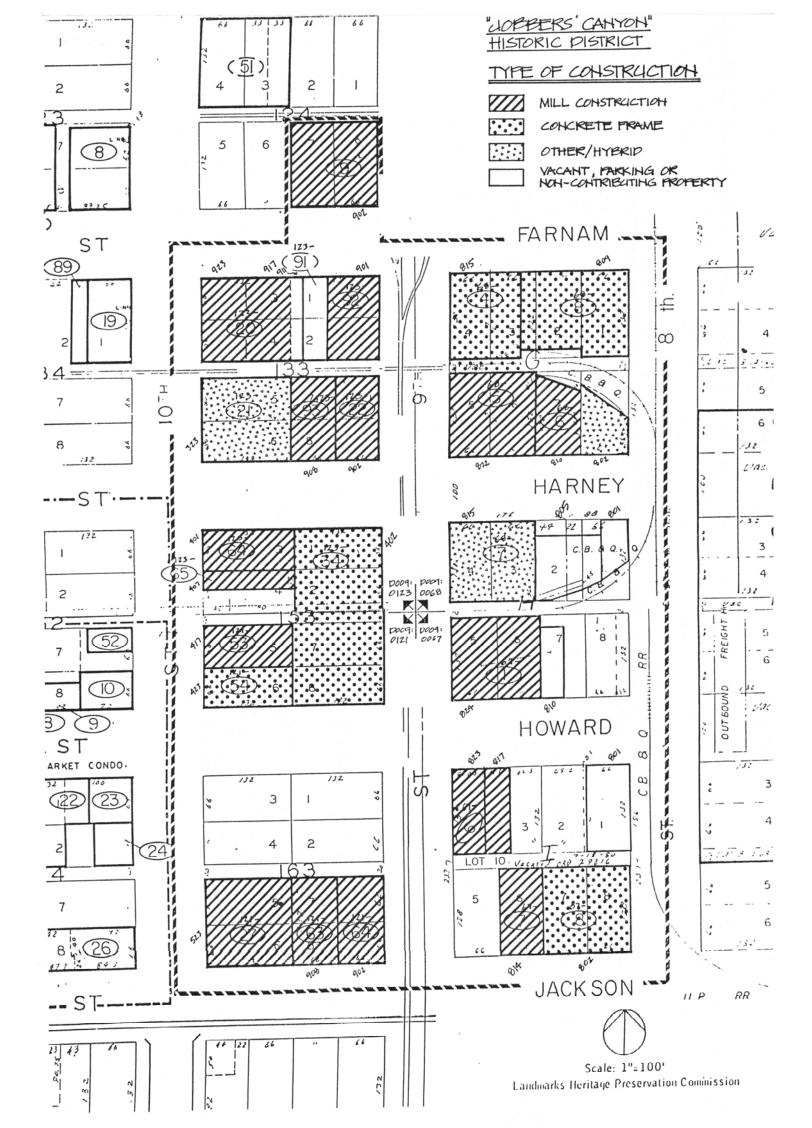




Photo 1 of 23—Rector & Wilhelmy Company Building, DO09:0121-027 View looking northeast along 10th St from Jackson St Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #523 S 10th St-1-1986



Photo 2 of 23— left, American Radiator Company Building, DO09:0121-053; right, DO09:0121-054 View looking southeast along 10th St from between Harney & Howards Sts Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #417-423 S 10th St-1-1986



Photo 3 of 23— Richardson Building, DO09:0121-063 (left), DO09:0121-064 (right)

View looking northwest from 9th & Jackson St

Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #902-08 Jackson St-1-1985



Photo 4 of 23— Nash Block, DO09:0123-009 View looking northwest from 9th & Farnam Sts Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #902-12 Farnam St-1-1980

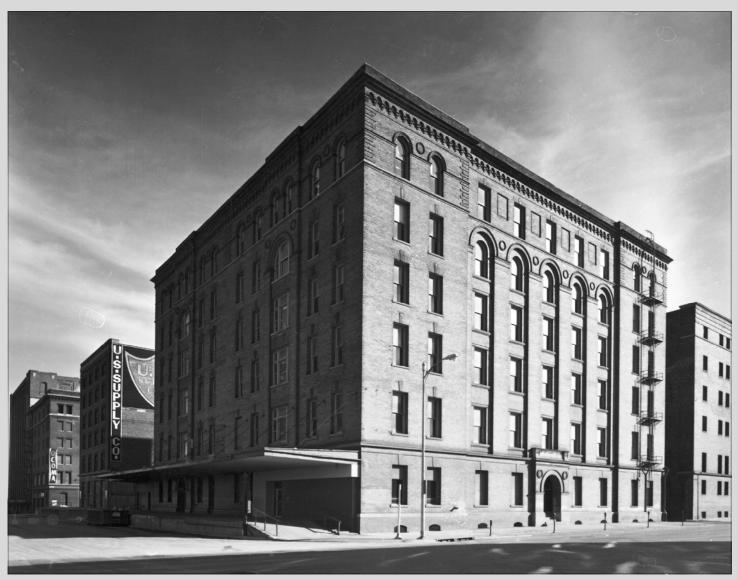


Photo 5 of 23— Kingman Implement Company Building, DOo9:0123-020 View looking southeast from 10th & Farnam Sts Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #417-423 S 10th St-1-1986



Photo 6 of 23— Crane Company Building, DO09:0123-021
View looking northeast from 10th & Harney Sts
Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #323 S 10th St-1-1986

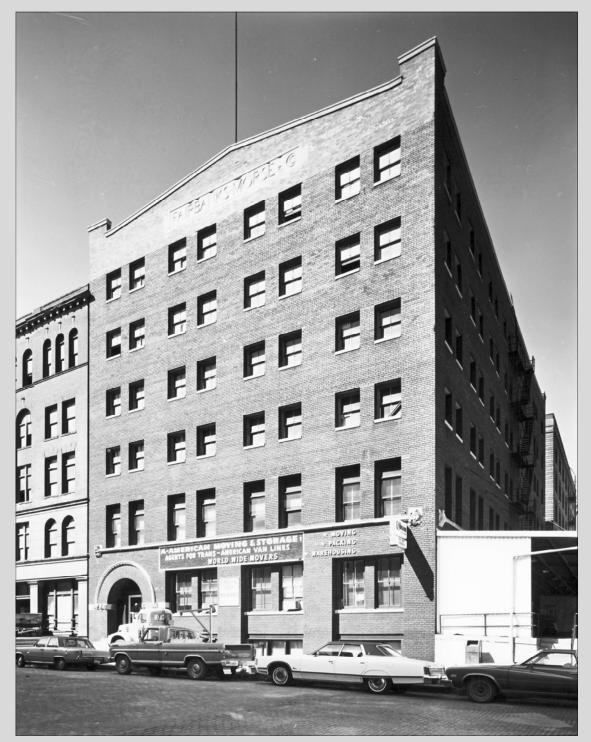


Photo 7 of 23— Fairbanks, Morse & Company Building, DO09:0123-022

View looking northwest from 9th & Harney Sts

Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #902 Harney St-1-1980



Photo 8 of 23— John Deere Plow Company Building, DO09:0123-034 View looking southwest from 9th & Harney Sts Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #402 S 9th St-1-1986



Photo 9 of 23— left, John Day Company Building, DO09:0123-064; right, Brunswick-Balke-Collender Building, DO09:0123-065 View looking northeast along 10th St from between Harney & Howard Sts Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #401-07 S 10th St-1-1986



Photo 10 of 23— U.S. Supply Building, DO09:0123-092
View looking southeast along Farnam from between 9th & 10th Sts
Left to right, DO09:0068-008, DO09:0068-004, DO09:0123-092 (DO09:0123-091, non-extant)
Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #901 Farnam St-1-1985



Photo 11 of 23— The Dempster Building, DOo9:0123-093 View looking northeast along Harney from between 9th & 10th Sts Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #908 Harney St-1-1986



Photo 12 of 23— Lee-Coit-Andreesen Hardware Company, DOog:0068-004
View looking southeast along 9th from Farnam
Left to right, DOog:0068-004, DOog:0068-005
Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #815 Farnam St-1-1986



Photo 13 of 23— H.J. Lee Warehouse Building, DO09:0068-005
View looking northeast along 9th from Harney St
Right to left, DO09:0068-005, DO09:0068-004
Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #822 Harney St-1-1986



Photo 14 of 23— Harding Cream Company Building, DO09:0068-006

View looking northwest along Harney from 8th St

Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #802 Harney St-1-1986



Photo 15 of 23— Carpenter Paper Company Building, DO09:0068-007

View looking southeast along 9th from Harney St

Left to right, DO09:0068-007, DO09:0067-001

Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #815 Harney St-1-1986

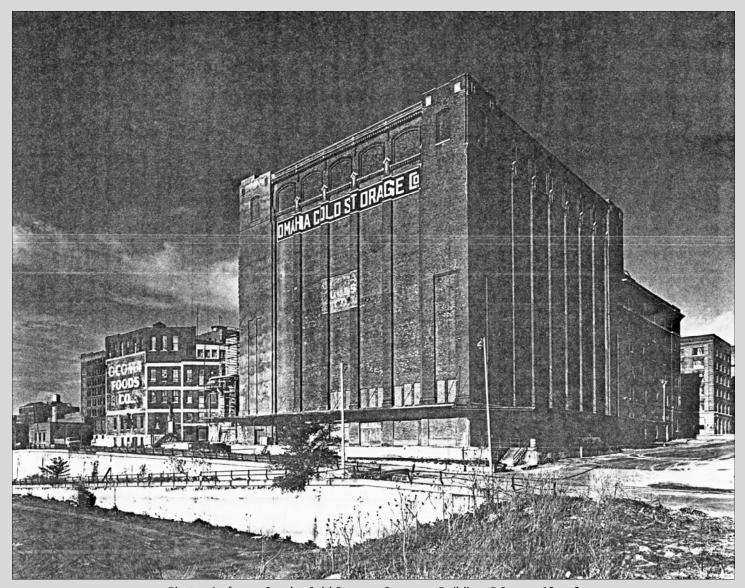


Photo 16 of 23— Omaha Cold Storage Company Building, DO09:0068-008 View looking southwest from 7th & Farnam Sts Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #809 Farnam St-1-1986



Photo 17 of 23— Creighton Block, DO09:0067-001 View looking northeast along 9th from Howard St Right to left, DO09:0067-001, DO09:0068-007 Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #824 Howard St-1-1986



Photo 18 of 23— DO09:0067-006 View looking southeast along Howard from 9th St Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #803 Howard St-1-1986

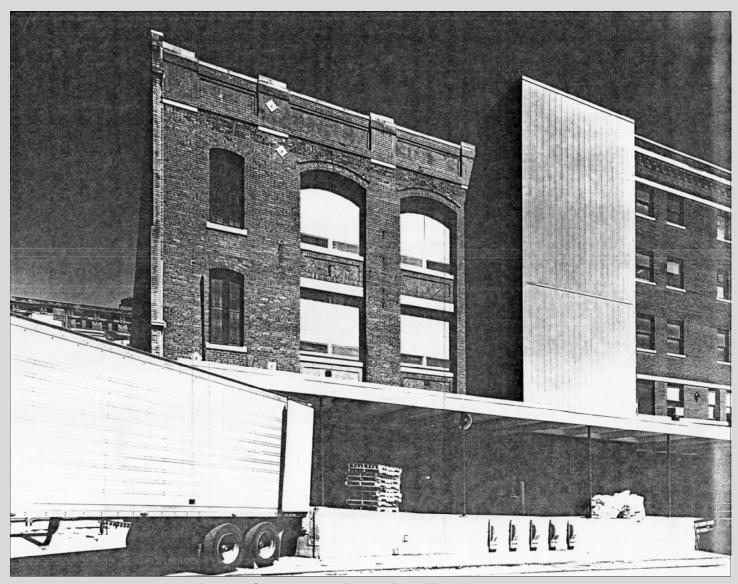


Photo 19 of 23— J.I. Case Plow Works Building, DO09:0067-007 View looking northeast along Jackson from just east of 9th St Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #814 Jackson St-1-1986



Photo 20 of 23— Trimble Brothers Building, DOog:0067-008

View looking northwest from 8th & Jackson Sts

Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #802 Jackson St-1-1986



Photo 21 of 23— general view looking north on 9th from Jackson St Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #400 Blk S 9th St-1-1986



Photo 22 of 23— general view looking southeast along 9th from Nash Block (approximately 9th & Farnam Sts)
Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #300 Blk S 9th St-1-1986



Photo 23 of 23— general view looking southwest form approximately 6th & Farnam Photo by Lynn Meyer, Omaha City Planning Department. Photo #600 Blk Farnam/Douglas-1-1986